

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

### **5.1 QUESTION FROM GAY BROWN OF THE YIEWSLEY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GROUP TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION – COUNCILLOR BURROWS**

Following influence from the Chamber of Commerce the Government required rates to be paid on empty buildings. We feel this has backfired since many companies now choose to bank the sites and demolish the buildings leaving us with rubble filled sites looking like World War II bomb sites. This has become a form of intimidation. The company thinks we will approve of a development which is inappropriate or wrong use of the site just to get rid of the eyesore! Will the Council join the move to include a policy in their Sustainable Communities Strategy to require that alternative planning permission is granted before buildings can be demolished regardless of whether they are residential or commercial?

### **5.2 QUESTION FROM KENNETH CLUCAS OF YORK ROAD, NORTHWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION – COUNCILLOR BURROWS**

Given the inducement to vote for this administration, by offering to freeze the Council Tax, can I draw the Cabinet Member's attention to the deplorable state of the Borough's roads and pavements caused by lack of investment in regular planned proper maintenance. Colchester Road and Hilliard Road are prime examples of shabby maintenance caused by simply botching the filling of pot holes with a quick fix pile of tarmac creating conditions comparable to traffic calming which only last a couple of months. The resultant patchwork quilt of tarmac filled holes damages cars and creates driving hazards. When are these two roads in particular and others in Northwood Hills going to be resurfaced properly?

### **5.3 QUESTION FROM TONY ELLIS OF KEWFERRY ROAD, NORTHWOOD TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION – COUNCILLOR BURROWS**

The Planning Committee process is undemocratic as an applicant has no right of reply to contest errors made by Planning officials. How do applicants and residents address mistakes in Planning officials' reports presented to Committee if they do not have the right to challenge the Planning officer in Committee?